

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 880

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Sophia Toney for heroism.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those Tennesseans who, without hesitation or concern for personal safety, take action to protect the lives of others, putting themselves in the line of danger in acts of true heroism; and

WHEREAS, Sophia Toney is one such individual who, on October 10, 2013, put herself in the line of danger to protect three children, two six-year-old boys and a three-year-old girl, using her body to shield them as gunfire erupted during what had been an innocent and fun-filled October evening hayride; and

WHEREAS, during the hayride, Sophia, then a seventeen-year-old Cherokee High School senior, and the children were riding in a wagon pulled by an ATV when Trevor Lee Burton opened fire on the group. In the hail of bullets, Miss Toney used her body to shield the children, protecting them until the group was able to reach safety; and

WHEREAS, Sophia Toney's quick actions to protect the children were incredibly heroic and, according to Hawkins County Sheriff Ronnie Lawson, were among the most heroic actions he has witnessed in thirty-six years of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, her actions have garnered the admiration and pride of her parents, Greg and Melissa Toney, her classmates, her community, and this State, and it is wholly fitting that this body recognize her heroism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Sophia Toney for her incredibly selfless

and heroic actions on the night of October 10, 2013, when she protected the lives of three young children by putting herself in grave danger, and extend our best wishes for her happiness and success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.